



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCESS FOR LEARNING AND LIVELIHOOD SKILLS (EQuALLS) PROJECT

Improving access to quality education

*Providing relevant life skills for
out-of-school children and youth*



EQuALLS2

What is **EQuALLS?**

EQuALLS is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project to increase access to quality education and relevant life skills especially in areas most affected by conflict and poverty in Mindanao. The project focuses on the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and the neighboring conflict-affected areas of the Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX) and Cotabato (Region XII).

Phase 1 was implemented from 2004-2006.

EQuALLS Phase 2 will be a five-year effort (August 1, 2006 - July 31, 2011) focused on three key objectives:

- ☑ **Increase learning opportunities** for children and youth through community support for education
- ☑ **Strengthen capacity for teaching** English, Math and Science
- ☑ **Improve relevance and training** for out-of-school children and youth (OSCY)





What does EQuALLS do?

- ☑ Strengthen local school boards by training board members and local government officials in resource mobilization and management
- ☑ Assist public elementary schools in improving instruction in English, Science, and Math
- ☑ Use technology and media to enhance teaching and learning
- ☑ Increase the availability of supplementary educational materials in English, Science, and Math for students and OSCY
- ☑ Implement flexible learning options that are adapted to the needs of children and youth at risk of dropping out of school
- ☑ Explore innovative ways to increase access and enhance teaching-learning experiences to improve learning outcomes
- ☑ Establish a skills training and industry immersion program that will provide employment opportunities for Mindanao's growing number of OSCY



Implementing strategies

Project implementation will be guided by these strategies:

Demand-driven programming

We will respond to the expressed needs of community members, local government units, partner agencies, the Department of Education, and other stakeholders, through context-specific strategies and interventions.

Increased strategic coordination

We will work closely with our partners to design and implement programs and activities to maximize impact on improved teaching and learning.

Deepening impact through geographic targeting

We aim to provide universal coverage in all barangays within selected municipalities and establish strong community involvement in order to sustain results through concentrated program interventions.

Who **implements** EQuALLS?

The Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), a US-based international non-profit organization, will **coordinate** the EQuALLS Project and **provide technical leadership** to a group of implementing organizations.

The project will draw on the experience and expertise of respected national and international development organizations to improve access to quality education and provide relevant life skills for out-of-school children and youth.

Some of the initiatives and the lead organizations implementing them are:

- ☑ Assistance for the Comprehensive Educational Development of Mindanao (**ASCEND Mindanao**) – Save the Children
- ☑ Books Across the Sea (**BATS**) – Brother's Brother Foundation
- ☑ Dagyawang Igpaw sa Wastong Agkataw (**DIWA**) – Synergeia Foundation
- ☑ Education and Livelihood Skills Alliance (**ELSA**) – International Youth Foundation
- ☑ Improving English Language Teaching and Learning in Mindanao (**IELTLM**) – Real World Alliance
- ☑ Television Education for the Advancement of Muslim-Mindanao (**TEAM Mindanao**) – Knowledge Channel
- ☑ **Tudlo Mindanao** (Teach Mindanao) – United States Peace Corps / Philippines

EQuALLS is characterized by alliances with private sector groups - corporations, foundations, and non-governmental organizations - to increase funding resources and provide additional expertise and energy. The private sector partners are matching and in nearly all cases exceeding funding amounts provided by USAID.



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